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8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 200

VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22182-3817

TELEPHONE: (703) 761-4100

FACSIMILE/DATA: (703) 761-2375; 761-2378

E-MAIL: ADMIN@MCGINNIPLAW.COM

SENDER'S E-MAIL: JHOWARD@MCGINNIPLAW.COM

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SEAN M. MCGINN
PHILLIP E. MILLER†
FREDERICK E. COOPERRIDER†
JAMES E. HOWARD†
JOHN J. DRESCH
SCOTT M. TULINO
DONALD J. LECHER
PETER F. MCGEE†
JOHN W. FITZPATRICK†
DONALD A. DIPALUA†
†MEMBER OF BAR OTHER THAN VA

December 28, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE

To: Examiner Lee Sin Yee Lum Vannucci
Group Art Unit: 3611
U.S.P.T.O.

Facsimile No.: (571) 273-8300

From: James E. Howard

Facsimile No.: (703) 761-2375 or 76

Re: Enclosed Request for Reconsideration
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/721,751
Docket No.: K06-163744M/TBS

Dear Examiner Lum Vannucci:

Enclosed for filing is a Request for Reconsideration in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 18, 2006, which should place the above-referenced case in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,



James E. Howard

JEH/geb

Enclosures

Total pages transmitted: 13

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Shiina et al.

Serial No.: 10/721,751 Group Art Unit: 3611

Filed: November 26, 2003 Examiner: Lee Sin Yee Lum Vannucci

For: ELECTRIC POWER STEERING APPARATUS

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Box AF
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

This paper is in preparation for imminent appeal and in response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2006.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-32 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 20, and 29 are independent.

Applicants note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizukoshi (U.S. Patent No. 3,661,031). Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizukoshi in view of Kojo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,887).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to an electric power steering apparatus adapted to transmit power supplied from an electric motor for assisting steering. The electric power steering apparatus includes a driving gear and a driven gear through which the power is transmitted. A first backlash between the driving gear and the driven gear in a first range of steering